

PEOPLE & THINGS

WITHIN hours of Mr. Eisenhower's heart attack Vice-President Nixon was assigned a larger complement of secret service bodyguards—and a larger share of the political limelight.

The political record and reactions of Mr. Eisenhower and his Vice-President seem as dissimilar as their military ranks—General of the Army Dwight Eisenhower and Commander Richard Nixon, U.S.N.R. Despite some hard campaigning, Mr. Eisenhower has been generally successful in his efforts to avoid party rancour. On the other hand, Mr. Nixon obviously relishes a bout of partisan scuffling.

Some of the Vice-President's early election campaigns were marked by a Marciano-like ferocity; and a number of the contestants—notably Mr. Jerry Voorhis and Mrs. Helen Douglas—emerged with bruised reputations and psychological black eyes. During the 1952 Presidential campaign Mr. Nixon's use of the "Communists in our Government" theme, coupled with his neat deflection of charges of improper financial dealings, drove many Democrats to the verge of apoplexy.

Temperature Rising

HARD words and tough campaigning are a common feature of political life in Mr. Nixon's home State of California. There the Republican Party has been split into three factions and rivalry continues. Mr. Nixon sometimes has breakfast with his fellow Californian and powerful rival Senator Knowland, but he does not break bread with the Republican Governor of the State, Mr. "Goodie" Knight.

As Vice-President, however, Richard Nixon has developed considerable diplomatic skill. He has energy, charm, and an ability to absorb facts and figures at high speed—at college and law school he was ranked second and third in academic standing among men of his year. There are many who believe that he is now learning wisdom as "well as detail.

Man of Action

MR. OLIVER POOLE has the advantage of falling heir to the machine created by Lord Woolton. But the new Chairman of the Conservative Party organisation is not "typed" by his predecessor either in manner, approach or in ideas. Tall, lanky, loose-limbed, with the slight stoop of the very tall man, his appearance as well as his education (Eton and Christ Church) may suggest the traditional Tory background. But the man himself typifies a new Toryism—youthful, vigorous, and forward-looking. He is a serious-minded young man of forty-four; and he attempts to cloak this natural seriousness with a witty and bantering conversation.

Mr. Poole's impact will, I am sure, be bracing and distinctive. The "new broom" will not make the dust fly nor create any violent upheaval just for the sake of change. But Poole is a man of drive and will not hesitate to change, adapt or, where necessary, reorganise to his own design.

His mind is incisive, he talks sound, down-to-earth common sense in brisk, to-the-point language; he has the capacity to originate ideas and the courage to make decisions without hesitation. These personal qualities were precisely those which obviously appealed to Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery when he selected him

By ATTICUS

as one of the able company of young officers he gathered around him at 21st Army Group Headquarters. He left the Army as a full colonel at thirty-four with an acknowledged reputation as a planner and man of action.

The Prime Minister is known to be determined to bring in young men of forcefulness, brains and modern outlook. Mr. Poole's selection, and Mr. Kaberry's, may be regarded as a forerunner of the general pattern of the Government which the Premier will establish by his Ministerial changes.

Chairladies

FOR the first time in the history of the Conservative Party, both the chief offices at the Annual Conference will be held by women.

The Hon. Mrs. T. A. Emmet, M.P., will take the chair this week at Bournemouth and, as President of the National Union, Mrs. Lorne Sayers will preside at the Saturday afternoon rally and introduce Sir Anthony Eden.

The Conservative rank and file need not be overawed by the formidable abilities of their chairwomen—by Mrs. Emmet's impressive record of public service on the L.C.C. and the West Sussex County Council, her knowledge of Italian, French and German and her recent mastery of Russian, or by Mrs. Lorne Sayers's membership of the U.K. delegation to the United Nations—for their first interests lie in the land and in the home.

They are both practical farmers—Mrs. Emmet has herds of Jersey and Dexter cattle in Sussex and Mrs. Lorne Sayers has pedigree South Devons near Plymouth—and, both widows, the former has four children and eight grandchildren and the latter five children and seven grandchildren.



Rear-End Breakaway

THE glossary of motoring language I published last week has brought in one or two amendments from aficionados.

One correspondent says that the expression "a lakester" comes from the Salt Lake area and means a car stripped not only of bumpers but also of mudguards and running-boards and often equipped with an acroplane fuel drop-tank.

Another correspondent wishes "Rear-End Breakaway" to be added and encloses the admirable French depiction of a rear-wheel skid—so much more effective than the American "Slippery When Wet." In England our roads are (officially) so good that we don't need such a warning sign.

Colonial Officer

IF Field-Marshal Sir John Harding is looking for strong men to help him re-establish law and order in Cyprus he will find one in the District Commissioner of Nicosia, Mr. Martin Clemens.

After leaving Cambridge, where

he was a pioneer among the "Night Climbers" who blazed the trail over the roofs of college buildings, Clemens went, just before the war, to his first post in the Colonial Service as Assistant District Officer of Guadalcanal in the Solomons. When ordered to leave on the eve of the Japanese landing, he refused and spent the remaining hours before his colleagues left in mastering the use of a wireless transmitter.

Throughout the year of the Japanese occupation he remained on the run, still operating the set and carrying with him wherever he went a Union Jack which grew more tattered with each hasty change of hiding-place, and it was largely through the intelligence he sent that the American forces made their initial landing.

Clemens then went to Fiji and raised a force which, as "Clemens's Scouts," played an important part in the liberation of the Solomons. After the war he moved to Palestine, where he was Assistant District Commissioner at Nablus and then District Commissioner in Gaza.

Tough, intrepid and always smiling, Sir John Harding will find that there could be no better man to help him in his difficult and extremely unattractive task.

Cyprus in Soho

INCIDENTALLY, while the extremists in Cyprus are angered over the appointment of Sir John Harding, most of the large Cypriot community in London has drawn a deep but private breath of relief at this evidence of a "firm line."

The Greek Cypriots in Soho and elsewhere are good and happy citizens and the possible loss of British citizenship as a result of Enosis, the prospect of competition with other aliens for labour permits, and restrictions on the remittance of money to their relatives in Cyprus, fill them with dismay.

There is much similar sentiment in Cyprus itself, and it will be one of the new Governor's first tasks to mobilise it and give it courage.

The Ring and the Book

IS any law of the land, I wonder, more openly, flagrantly and constantly flouted than that relating to auction "rings"? The question is prompted by the approach of the new Auction Season and by the revelations of the anonymous author of the "Editorial" in three recent issues of "Desiderata," the weekly organ of the antiquarian book-trade. These three articles recount, in the form of a cautionary tale, the experiences of a Mr. Innocent, a novice in the trade, after he had been "pressed" into the "ring."

The third article is, in fact, a thinly disguised account of a recent sale in the South of England at which the book ring scooped over £2,000 at the expense of the auctioneer and his client. Mr. Innocent was puzzled, however, to find that his rake-off or "div." multiplied by the number of participants, left some £300 unaccounted for. This sum, it was explained to him, went to the ring-leaders for the "work and worry" involved in organising the field-day. In fairness, it should be added that a free dinner of roast duck was provided for all concerned.

Epitaph

HEARD in the corridors of the United Nations when the news came through of President Peron's fall: "Time wounds every heel."